

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 08308 131706Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----131709Z 104576 /43

O 131657Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8254

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BONN 08308

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS INFO TO USNMR SHAPE AND CINC EUR
VAIHINGEN.

MILITARY ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FURTHER GERMAN THINKING ON NEXT STEPS

REF: SECTO 4017

1. IN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION, FONOFF MBFR DIRECTOR RUECKRIEGEL ON MAY 13 INDICATED THAT GERMAN WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS WERE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF PROCEEDING WITH THE PROJECT OF PUBLISHING NATIONAL TOTALS IN A NATO PUBLICATION. HE NOTED THAT THE FRG HAD NOT YET BEGUN TO DRAFT A SPECIFIC PAPER, BUT WAS CONSIDERING WHAT ELEMENTS IT SHOULD INCLUDE.

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PAGE 02 BONN 08308 131706Z

2. A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE FRG, RUECKRIEGEL CONTINUED, WAS FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO HAVE FIGURES ON FRENCH FORCES IN THE FRG INCLUDED IN THE PUBLICATION. RUECKRIEGEL SAID THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN BROACHED AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL DURING THE LONDON SUMMIT, BUT THAT THE FRENCH REACTION HAD BEEN NEGATIVE AND THE GERMANS CONSIDERED THE IDEA PRACTICALLY DEAD. SINCE IT NOW APPEARED UNLIKELY

THAT FRENCH FIGURES COULD BE INCLUDED, RUECKRIEGEL SAID THE FRG WAS CONCERNED THAT ANY SUCH PUBLICATION WOULD HAVE TOO MUCH OF AN MBFR FLAVOR. MOREOVER, HE SAID, OTHER ALLIES, SUCH AS THE GREEKS, TURKS AND BELGIANS, WOULD ALSO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SUCH A PUBLICATION.

3. IN THINKING OUT LOUD, RUECKRIEGEL WONDERED WHETHER IT WAS REALLY NECESSARY TO PRODUCE SUCH A PUBLICATION IF THE ALLIANCE DECIDED TO TABLE DATA IDENTIFIED EITHER BY NATIONALITY OR BY HEADQUARTERS LOCATION. HE SAID IT WOULD BE A RELATIVELY SIMPLE MATTER FOR THE EAST TO EXTRAPOLATE FROM THESE FIGURES IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT NATIONAL TOTALS. RUECKRIEGEL BELIEVED THAT, SHOULD THE OTHER ALLIES CONCUR, THE FRG TOO WOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE TO IDENTIFYING UNITS BY NATIONALITY.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF DISAGGREGATION OF AIR FORCE DATA, RUECKRIEGEL PLANNED TO MEET TODAY WITH FMOD WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS FOR A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE. RUECKRIEGEL POSED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION OF WHY IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DISAGGREGATE AIR FORCE FIGURES WHEN THE OVERALL TOTALS WERE APPROXIMATELY THE SAME. (COMMENT: FROM RUECKRIEGEL'S REMARKS, IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT THE FONOFF FAVORED SUCH DISAGGREGATION).
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USNMR SHAPE AND CINCEUR VAIHINGEN.

SECRET

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